

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03186 101629Z

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ACTION NEA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: AMBASSADOR BROWN'S CONTACTS

REF: USIA 11406

SUMMARY: LEBANESE PRESE GIVES EXTENSIVE AND GENERALLY FAVOR-
ABLE COVERAGE TO AMBASSADOR BROWN'S ACTIVITIES INDICATING
LEBANESE LEADERS WITH WHOM HE HAS SPOKEN BELIEVE HE ENVISIONS
SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF CRISIS VIA PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONS
TO AMEND CONSTITUTION AND ELECT NEW PRESIDENT, FAVORS SYRIAN
INITIATIVE, AND IN HIS CONVERSATIONS IS LOOKING BEYOND SOLUTION OF
CRISIS TOWARD MEASURES TO REHABILITATE LEBANESE ECONOMY
WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY

2. REPRESENTATIVE EXCERPTS FOLLOW: AL MOHARRIR (LEFTIST, PRO-PLO):

" MR. BROWN MET YESTERDAY WITH PRIMIN KARAME, FORMER PRIMIN
YAFI AND JOSEPH SKAFF OF BEKAA PARLIAMENTARY BLOC. HE
REITERATED THAT SOLUTION OF CRISIS IS IN HANDS OF LEBANESE
AND HIS MISSION IS RESTRICTED TO DRAWING VARIOUS VIEWS
TOGETHER AND ILLUMINATING PATH TOWARD SOLUTION. MR. BROWN
EMPHASIZED THAT SITUATION IN

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03186 101629Z

COUNTRY CANNOT TOLERATE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION BATTLE AND THIS

NECESSITATES AGREEMENT BY ALL PARTIES ON BEST AND MOST COMPETENT CANDIDATE."

3. AN NAHAR (LEADING INDEPENDENT): "FOLLOWING THE MEETING KARAME MADE STATEMENT SAYING: 'AMERICAN ENVOY NOW IS WELL INFORMED AND HAS AN OPINION ON POSITIONS AND OPINIONS OF SOME PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, IN LIGHT OF WHICH HE WILL SEEK NECESSARY SOLUTIONS AND ANYTHING TO HELP EMERGE FROM THE CRISIS'.. MR. YAFI SAID "WE HAVE EXAMINED STAGES OF LEBANESE CRISIS FROM BEGINNING TO NOW. MR. BROWN TOLD US OF STEPS HE HAS TAKEN AND IDEAS HE COMMUNICATED TO THE VARIOUS PARTIES. HE ASKED US SOME QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING THE SOLUTION OF CRISIS, AND WE PRESENTED HIM SUGGESTIONS. THE AMERICAN ENVOY WAS DEEPLY UNDERSTANDING AND WE FELT HE HAS A SINCERE DESIRE TO REACH SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES'...MR. SAKAFF, ASKED WHETHER MR. BROWN IS CARRYING PARTICULAR SOLUTIONS, SAID 'OF COURSE HE HAS GENERAL IDEAS AND TRENDS AND WE CONVEYED TO HIM WHAT WE CONSIDER NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH THE CRISIS. WE FINISHED THE MEETING WITH COMPLETE OPTIMISM..'

4. AL MOHARRIR: "KAMAL JUMBLATT REVIEWED WITH THE NATIONAL AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES THE RESULTS OF HIS TALKS WITH THE AMERICAN ENVOY AND DISCLOSED THAT HE WAS THE ONE WHO PROPOSED MR. BROWN MAKE THE NECESSARY CONTACTS TO GUARANTEE THE MEETING OF PARLIAMENT TODAY, AND THAT PERHAPS PRESIDENT FRANJIEH CHANGED HIS ATTITUDE AS A RESULT OF THESE CONTACTS. JUMBLATT EXPLAINED THAT DISCUSSION WITH BROWN INDICATED THAT AMERICAN ENVOY'S MISSION EXCEEDS ATTEMPT TO SETTLE PRESENT CRISIS. BROWN CONSULTED HIM ABOUT WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO REPAIR ECONOMY, UNITE ARMY, AND ESTABLISH CONSORTIUM, POINTING OUT HIS COUNTRY IS READY TO SEND URGENT AID TO LEBANON AND FACILITATE UTILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS FOR REFORMING LEBANESE CONDITIONS."

5. AL ANWAR (PRO-EGYPT): "FROM THE MEETING BETWEEN BROWN WITH YAFI AND THE ZAHLE DEPUTY IT IS CONCLUDED THAT AMERICAN MEDIATION IS ACTIVE IN SEARCHING FOR THE NAME OF NEW PRESIDENT. BROWN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE EXPECTS PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONS TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AND ELECT NEW PRESIDENT WILL END THE ORDEAL AND HE IS CONFIDENT AFTER HIS CONSULTATIONS THAT

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03186 101629Z

ALL LEBANESE PARTIES ARE WILLING TO EMERGE FROM THE CRISIS ON AN AGREED, CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS. HE DOES NOT CONCEAL FACT THAT SYRIAN INITIATIVE RECEIVED ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL BACKING AND THAT ITS SUCCESS MEANS SUCCESS OF THE FRIENDS OF LEBANON AND SYRIA TOGETHER IN PUTTING AN END TO CRISIS WHICH THREATENS SECURITY OF WHOLE AREA. MR. BROWN IS CONVINCED, ACCORDING TO HIS QUARTERS, THAT THERE IS NO CONFLICT WHATSOEVER BETWEEN HIS MISSION AND THAT OF THE FRENCH ENVOY AND THAT THE SYRIAN

MILITARY PRESENCE IN LEBANON DOES NOT AT ALL TAKE THE FORM OF OCCUPATION BUT THAT IT IS DETERRENT PRESENCE IN FACE OF EFFORTS AIMED AT DESTROYING WHAT REMAINS OF FUNDAMENTALS OF LEBANESE STATE.

6. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR (INDEPENDENT):" MESSRS. DEAN BROWN AND GOERGES GORGE SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN DECISION FAVORING FRANGIEH'S RESIGNATION. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES QUOTED BY A FOREIGN PRESS AGENCY SAID YESTERDAY THAT BROWN AND GORSE 'WITHOUT ADOPTING FORMALLY LEFTIST CALL FOR DEPARTURE OF FRANGIEH' HAVE BASED MOST OF THEIR CONTACTS ON 'HYPOTHESIS OF THE DEPARTURE OF FRANGIEH WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED BY ELECTION OF THE SUCCESSOR AND BY PROCLAMATION OF DURABLE CEASE-FIRE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SYRIAN SCENARIO.'" ELSWHERE L'ORIENT-LE JOUR QUOTES AMBASSADOR AS SAYING DURING VISIT TO RED CROSS HOSPITAL "WE DID NOT TELL PEOPLE TO DO ONE THING OR ANOTHER. WE SIMPLY TALKED ABOUT THE FUTURE AND HAVE GIVEN AN IDEA OF WHAT THE U.S. IS WILLING TO OFFER IN TERMS OF ASSISTANCE."
BROWN

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